

# RAIN GARDENS AT RICE CREEK FIELD STATION SUNY OSWEGO

These advanced storm water retention basins serve as rain gardens. They will keep sediment and pollution out of the surrounding wetlands making the new Rice Creek Field Station facilities at SUNY Oswego as environmentally sensitive as possible.

There are two landscaped rain gardens. One is located to the east of the building, in the side yard, receiving the rain and snow/ice melt runoff from the parking area. The other is to the south of the building, in the backyard, receiving rain and snow/ice melt water from the building's roof. Water moving over those hard or impervious surfaces picks up speed and force decreasing the amount of water that can soak into the ground. This can create erosion or flooding in the surrounding areas.

These rain gardens, also known as bio-swales, are shallow basins that collect and filter the water as it recharges the groundwater aquifers. Plants placed in those basins are adapted to having their "feet" wet part of the time. Examples of those types of plants found in the Rice Creek rain gardens include pickerel-weed and cardinal flower. Hummingbirds have already been seen visiting these gardens. Rain gardens are designed to slowly return the water into the ground and therefore allow less water to stand for long periods of time, decreasing mosquitos' breeding habitat.



Cardinal Flower



Pickerel-weed